



STORRS HALL



A scenic lake spotting drive via Keswick

This beautiful drive from the hotel up to Keswick is about 45 minutes, but there are some lovely villages to stop at on your way through, plus you will see 5 lakes, Windemere, Rydal Water, Grasmere, Thirlmere & Derwent Water.

If you choose to take the Ullswater extension to your drive back to Storrs you will add another 2 to the tally – Ullswater, and Brothers Water at the foot of the Kirkstone Pass.

From the hotel, turn left at the end of the driveway along the A592 towards Bowness. In about 2 miles, you will pass Windemere Lake Cruises on your left hand side, keep following the road until you come to a mini roundabout by Tesco.

At this roundabout, take the first left, along Rayrigg Road, signposted towards Ambleside. At the end of this road you will reach another round

about, turn left again on the A591 towards Ambleside. This road will take you to the top of Lake Windemere, with some stunning views back down the lake.

As you reach Waterhead at the top of the lake, you will come to a set of traffic lights. Take the lower road, a slight left. This will take you through the centre of Ambleside. Keep in the left hand as you go through the town, following the signs for Grasmere / Keswick A591.

This road will take you all the way up to Keswick town centre.



1. AMBLESIDE

A town bursting with shops and cafes – there is a huge range of outdoor shops here, so if you are looking for some new walking, cycling or climbing gear, this is the place to go. There are plenty of different cafes and restaurants to stop off for a bite to eat or drink as well. The road heading north to Rydal water takes you past the famous Bridge House.

Postcode: LA22

2. RYDAL

Between **Rydal** and Grasmere is White Moss Common, with ample LDNPA pay parking. The start of beautiful walks around Rydal Water, and its caves; or to Loughrigg Fell and Grasmere – a notable beauty spot for Bluebells in Spring.

Website: www.getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/local/white-moss-common-south-lakeland

Postcode: LA22 9SE



3. GRASMERE

Nestled at the foot of some spectacular fells, **Grasmere** is a beautiful Lakeland village with links to the Romantic poets including William Wordsworth who is buried in the church, as well as Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Thomas De Quincy. Dove Cottage is the notable Wordsworth visitor centre, his home remains intact, as part of the complex that includes a museum, shop with vintage copies of his work, and garden.

It's also famous for its Grasmere Gingerbread, there are plenty of gift shops and cafes, and the Heaton Cooper Gallery www.heatoncooper.co.uk/ if a watercolour print of the lakes would be the perfect memento of your visit.

Website: www.wordsworth.org.uk/visit

Postcode: LA22 9TA



4. KESWICK

Situated at the foot of Skiddaw, and surrounded by some of the largest fells, Keswick is a beautiful market town with plenty of shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants to choose from. Or why not take a boat trip on Derwent Water? The general market is every Thursday and Saturday, with a very good choice of products and stalls.

A small diversion nearby offer either a panoramic view of Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite lake, (the only lake in the lake district by name), or one of the earliest Stone Circles in the country.

Heading south down the Borrowdale Valley and heading towards Watendlath takes you over Ashness Bridge and to Surprise View, the National Trust car park is a short walk from the precipitous wooded slopes that line the east side of Derwent Water, bestowing beautiful views over the valley.

Or, leaving Keswick and heading east make time to visit Castlerigg stone circle, a Neolithic monument dating from 3,000BC – one of the oldest in the country.

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/borrowdale-and-derwent-water/features/surprise-view-car-park

Postcode: CA12



5. RETURN VIA ULLSWATER

Leaving Keswick, head North East on Main Street / B5289. At the mini roundabout, take the 1st exit signposted Penrith A66. Follow this road for just under ½ mile, over the river. Turn right, signposted Penrith A66. At the large roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto the Keswick Bypass / A66 signposted towards Penrith. Follow this road for 8.6 miles.

Turn right onto the A5091 signposted towards Troutbeck/Dockray/Ullswater. Follow this road for 5.2 miles.

At the end of this road, you reach the A592. On the left hand side is Aira Force – the most famous waterfall in the lakes. Owned by the National Trust there is a large car park with café and shop – having NT membership comes into its own in the lakes particularly for the free parking. Aira Force itself is a short walk up through parkland and woodland, (Llyulph's Tower of Wordsworth's poem is next door).

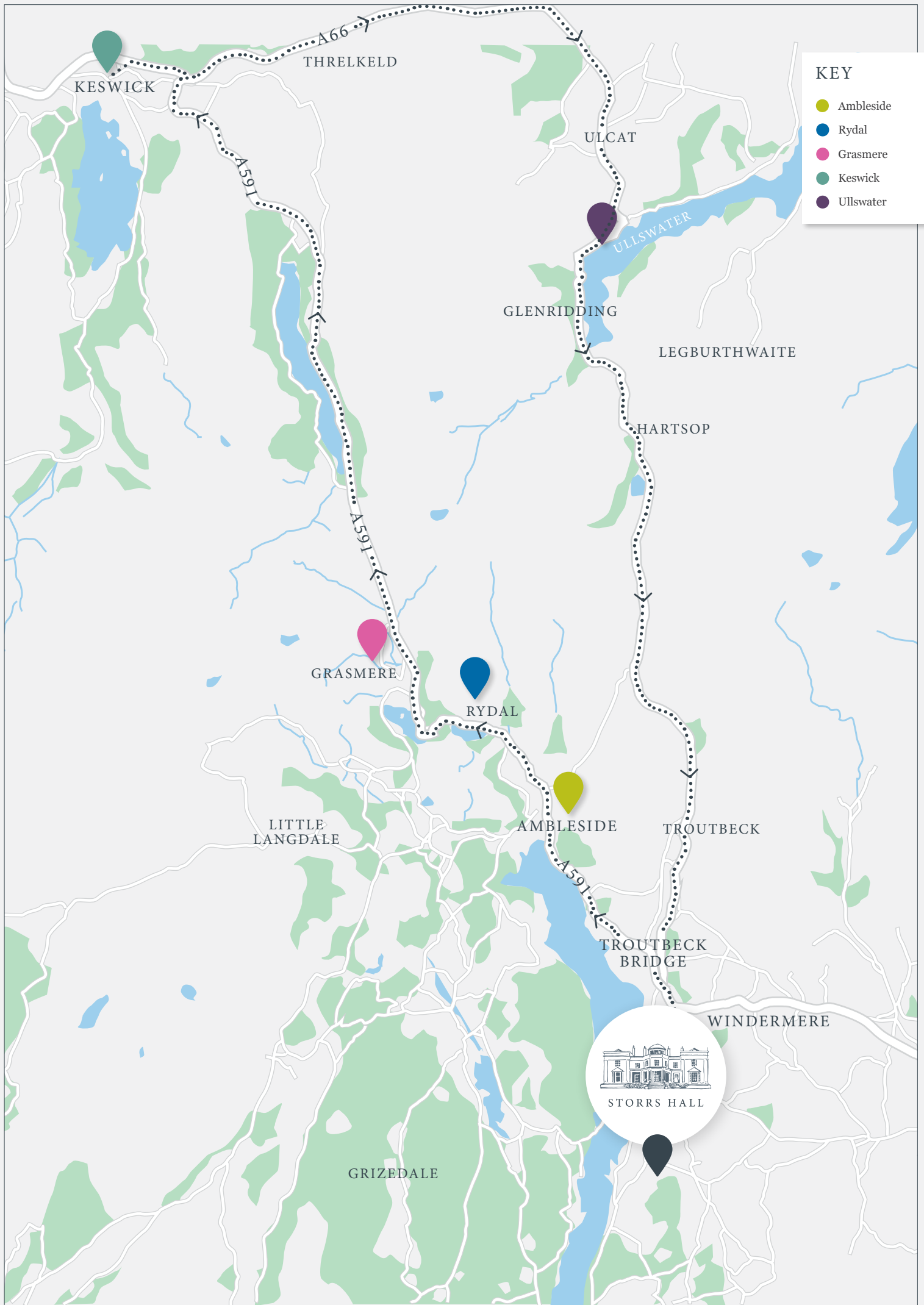
If you do not fancy visiting Aira Force, turn right, and follow the A592 signposted towards Windermere. You will stay on this road for just over 18 miles, enjoying some fantastic views. The road follows the west shoreline of Ullswater, the result of 3 converging glaciers; this is the lake that inspired Wordsworth to write one of the most famous poems in the English language – his host of golden daffodils were fringing the shoreline.

At the south end of the lake, Glenridding sits at the eastern foot of Helvellyn, this side has its famous Edges – voted Britain's favourite walk on the BBC. and then up and over Kirkstone Pass. This is home to a range of small independent shops and cafes, and Ullswater Steamers for lake cruises on vintage vessels historically used by the mining companies.

There is only the one road through the valley, which winds its way past Brothers Water before starting the steep winding ascent of Kirkstone Pass. The summit of the pass is home to the Kirkstone Pass Inn – the highest standing pub in the lakes. There is a car park opposite if you want to pause to take in the bird's eye view south over Windermere, before heading downhill to Storrs via Troutbeck. You come to the same mini roundabout from earlier in the day, take the second exit along Rayrigg Road towards Bowness Bay.

At the second mini roundabout, take the second exit towards Bowness Bay / Newby Bridge, where you will pass Windermere Lake Cruises again. Follow this road right back to the hotel.





KEY

- Ambleside
- Rydal
- Grasmere
- Keswick
- Ullswater